



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/565,091 | 01/18/2006 | Leif Stern | HW-8007 | 5471 |
| 26294 7590 09/11/2007 TAROLLI, SUNDHEIM, COVELL & TUMMINO L.L.P. 1300 EAST NINTH STREET, SUITE 1700 CLEVEEVLAND, OH 44114 | | | EXAMINER DUMAS, NKEISHA J | |
| | | | ART UNIT 3632 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 09/11/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/565,091 | Applicant(s) STERN, LEIF | |
| | Examiner Nkeisha J. Dumas | Art Unit 3632 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/12/2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following correspondence is a Final Office Action for application number 10/565,091 for a SCREEN FOR HOLDING REFUSE SACKS OPEN, filed on 1/18/2006. This correspondence is in response to applicant's reply filed on 7/12/2007. Claims 1 and 3-11 are pending.

Drawings

2. Replacement drawings were received on 7/12/2007. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson (U.S. Pat. 4,955,496) in view of Martone (U.S. Pat. 4,815,866).

Regarding claims 1 and 11, Nelson teaches an apparatus or a screen (10) formed of an elastic material (polypropylene) and is compressible from a normal shape to a narrower shape (Figs. 1, 3, 11), a refuse sack (14) can be threaded onto the screen or said screen be inserted into said refuse sack when said screen is compressed to a narrower shape, and the screen can be brought to spring out from its narrower shape to its normal shape and thereby stretch the refuse sack (col. 1, lines 20-25), the screen

has a length permitting folding of open parts of the refuse sack into the screen, but does not teach that a locking device with outwardly extending pins is provided on the screen. Martone, however, teaches that a frame having a locking device with outwardly extending pins (50) is provided on the top end portion of the frame in order to assist and retain a bag on the frame. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to construct the screen of Nelson having a locking device with outwardly extending pins provided on a second end portion of the screen as an alternate method of holding the refuse bag onto the screen in order to prevent movement of the bag while loading refuse into the bag, in view of Martone.

Regarding claim 3, Nelson and Martone teach the screen of claim 1 where Nelson teaches that a member (52) is provided to hold the screen in the narrower shape.

Regarding claim 4, Nelson and Martone teach the screen of claim 1 where Nelson teaches that a second end portion (18) of the screen has at least one handle opening (26) into which parts of the refuse sack are insertable.

Regarding claim 5, Nelson and Martone teach the screen of claim 1 where Martone and Nelson both teach that the pins extend outwards from a second end portion of the screen.

Although claim 7 recites purely functional limitations, it is nonetheless rejected because Nelson and Martone teach the screen of claim 1 where Nelson teaches that the screen is capable of permitting a refuse sack to be provided thereon, on a support from which refuse shall be moved into the refuse sack, such that those parts of the

refuse sack which extend between the two longitudinal edges (16, 18) of the screen and which thereby have a planar shape, can be situated close to and/or engage the support.

Although claim 8 recites functional limitations, it is nonetheless rejected because Nelson and Martone teach the screen of claim 1 where Nelson teaches that the longitudinal edges (at bottom end of 22, 24) are capable of being designed or including members for preventing damage of the refuse sack by the longitudinal edges (20).

Regarding claim 10, Nelson and Martone teach the screen of claim 1 where Nelson teaches that the screen is thin-walled (col. 3, lines 67-68) and consists of polypropylene (col. 3, line 67–col. 4, line 1) and the refuse sack is a plastic bag (col. 1, lines 6-9).

5. Claims 1, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Monahan (U.S. Pat. 6,296,212) in view of Martone (U.S. Pat. 4,815,866).

Regarding claim 1, Monahan teaches a screen (10) formed of an elastic material and is compressible from a normal shape to a narrower shape, the refuse sack can be threaded onto the screen or said screen be inserted into said refuse sack when said screen is compressed to a narrower shape, and the screen can be brought to spring out from its narrower shape to its normal shape and thereby stretch the refuse sack (Figs. 3A-3D), the screen has a length permitting folding of open parts of the refuse sack into the screen (depending on size of sack and screen), but does not teach that a locking device with outwardly extending pins is provided on the screen. Martone, however, teaches that a frame having a locking device with outwardly extending pins (50) is provided on the top end portion of the frame in order to assist and retain a bag on the

frame. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to construct the screen of Nelson having a locking device with outwardly extending pins provided on a second end portion of the screen as an alternate method of holding the refuse bag onto the screen in order to prevent movement of the bag while loading refuse into the bag, in view of Martone.

Regarding claim 6, Monahan and Martone teach the screen of claim 1 where Monahan teaches that the screen in cross section has a semicircular or substantially semicircular shape (Fig. 1).

Although claim 9 recites purely functional limitations, it is nonetheless rejected because Monahan and Martone teach the screen of claim 1 wherein a strip is capable of being hooked onto two longitudinal edges of the screen such that the strip extends across an opening between the edges at a second end portion of the screen and open parts of the refuse sack can be folded within the strip.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nkeisha J. Dumas whose telephone number is (571) 272-5781. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on (571) 272-6842. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

Application/Control Number:
10/565,091
Art Unit: 3632

Page 7

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


njd


Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600